

## REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview on July 5, 2005 regarding the above-identified patent application. During the interview, proposed claim amendments were discussed. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner indicated that applicants should file the claim amendments in the form of a Reply accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

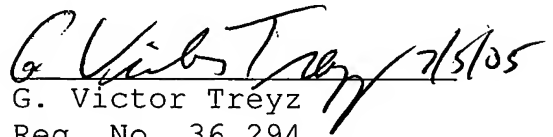
Applicants' invention relates to identity-based encryption (IBE) systems in which different groups of recipients each have a different set of IBE public parameter information that is to be used in encrypting messages to those recipients. In this type of environment, a sender must use a copy of the appropriate set of IBE public parameter information for a desired recipient. If the sender does not use the correct IBE public parameter information, the recipient will not be able to decrypt the message with a private key from his key server.

Applicants' invention addresses the problems associated with handling multiple sets of IBE public parameter information by establishing a plurality of IBE public parameter hosts. A sender may contact an appropriate IBE public parameter host using a service name generation rule.

These aspects of applicants' invention are clarified in the claim amendments. In particular, the amendment to claim

1 makes it clearer that the invention involves a plurality of IBE public parameter hosts. As discussed during the July 5, 2005 interview, this aspect of the invention is not shown or suggested by the prior art. Amended claim 1 is therefore allowable over AAPA, Mont, Smith, and Lee. Claims 2-20 and 22-24 depend from claim 1 and are allowable because claim 1 is allowable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this patent application and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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